

# STRANGER THINGS

**#203**

**THE POLLYWOG**

**Dustin adopts a strange new pet, and Eleven grows increasingly impatient. A well-meaning Bob urges Will to stand up to his fears.**

**INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT**

Dustin quietly opens the front door and walks inside, looking around as he closes the door behind him. He quietly makes his way towards his room.

CLAUDIA (O.S.): Dusty!

Dustin stops. He turns to see Claudia jump off the couch in the second lounge room and walk towards him.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D): Dusty, how was it?

DUSTIN: How was what?

CLAUDIA: "How was what?" The greatest night of the year, of course.

DUSTIN: Oh. Oh, yeah, it was...it was, uh, tubular.

CLAUDIA: What's wrong with you?

DUSTIN: Nothing.

CLAUDIA: Did something happen?

DUSTIN: No. What? No.

CLAUDIA: Are you constipated again?

DUSTIN: No! Mum!

CLAUDIA: Okay, you're acting weird.

DUSTIN: I am not acting weird!

Dustin's ghost trap shakes.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Whoa!

CLAUDIA: Ah!

Dustin laughs nervously. Mews hisses up at the trap. Claudia looks scared of it.

DUSTIN: Awesome, right? Yeah...I...I...I rigged the trap with, uh, a motor to make it look like I caught a ghost. Just like the movie.

Claudia laughs nervously.

CLAUDIA: Oh, Dusty.

DUSTIN: Yeah.

The pair laugh nervously, before the laughter becomes more genuine. The trap shakes again.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Funny. Look at that. Look at that.

Dustin turns away and walks towards his room.

**INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – NIGHT**

Dustin walks in and closes the door behind him, locking it. He holds the ghost trap up at his eye level.

DUSTIN: I told you to keep quiet.

Dustin walks over to his turtle enclosure, still holding the ghost trap up at his eye level.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): All you had to do was stay still for one minute. One minute.

Dustin sets the ghost trap down next to the enclosure. He lifts the lid off and reaches in to grab Yertle, lifting him out.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Sorry, Yertle. Temporary eviction, buddy.

Dustin sets Yertle down on the floor. He grabs the ghost trap and opens the flap, tipping its contents into the enclosure. A small frog-like creature drops out, chittering. It rolls off its back and looks at Dustin. Dustin bends down to look at it through the side of the enclosure, grinning.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): What are you, little guy?

Dart turns and crawls his way under the log in the enclosure, hiding away.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): What were you doing in my trash?

Dart sticks part of his head out to look at Dustin.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): You hungry?

#### **INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – NIGHT**

Dustin dumps his pillow case of candy out onto his bed. He grabs a 3 Musketeers, grinning. He walks back to the enclosure, breaking off a few pieces of the 3 Musketeers and dropping them into the enclosure. Dart looks intrigued by the pieces but doesn't come out from under the log. Dustin bites into the 3 Musketeers as he waits for Dart to come out.

DUSTIN: Nougat. Go on, eat.

Dart starts to come out from under the log, but screeches upon the light hitting him, and he scurries back under the log. Dustin looks up at the lamp above the enclosure, before looking back at Dart.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Too hot?

Dustin reaches up and turns the light off. Dart starts to come out from under the log.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Sorry about that, little guy.

Dart makes his way towards a piece and starts eating it. Dustin chuckles.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): You like nougat too, huh?

Dart responds by looking at Dustin as he eats another small bite.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): You're pretty cute, you know that? I'm glad I found you.

Dustin looks at the 3 Musketeers wrapper before looking at Dart.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): D'Artagnan. I'm gonna call you d'Artagnan.

#### **INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – NIGHT**

Dustin is asleep on his bed. A book on reptiles rests open on his chest, facing down. Empty candy wrappers litter the sheets around him. The camera pans away from Dustin and towards the turtle enclosure. Dart chitters and shakes. There's movement in his lower half. Dart screeches.

Cut to black.

**MAIN TITLES.**

**CHAPTER THREE: THE POLLYWOG.**

***FLSHBCK – EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – NIGHT***

*Hopper approaches the lockbox and finds the lid swing open, the box closed. He bends down to put more food inside the lockbox. Eleven watches him from behind a tree. Hopper closes the lid and looks around before standing up and walking away.*

***FLSHBCK – EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT***

*Hopper exits the woods, walking towards his truck. He hears footsteps behind him and stops, turning around. He sees Eleven.*

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – DAY**

Eleven lays in bed. Hopper stands in the doorway.

HOPPER: Rise and shine.

Eleven opens her eyes. She looks around and sees Hopper in the doorway. She rolls over in the bed to face away from him.

HOPPER (CONT'D): So that's it, huh? You're still not talking?

Eleven doesn't say anything.

HOPPER (CONT'D): All right. I guess I'm just gonna have to, uh...enjoy this triple-decker Eggo extravaganza on my own.

Eleven's eyes widen. Hopper walks out of the room.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Hopper sits at the little dining table. He cuts the triple-decker Eggo extravaganza in half, grunting as he does so. Eleven looks unimpressed. Hopper licks the knife clean as Eleven starts to eat her half.

HOPPER: Mmm! Mmm! Good, right? I know. You know the great thing about it? It's only 8000 calories.

Eleven doesn't say anything. Hopper starts to cut into the Eggos. He snuffles as his gaze follows the TV cord along the floor and into Eleven's room. He looks at Eleven.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You visited him again last night?

Eleven looks hesitant to answer.

ELEVEN: He says he needs me.

HOPPER: Want me to go check on him?

Eleven shakes her head.

HOPPER (CONT'D): I know that you miss him, all right? But it's too dangerous. You're the last thing he needs right now. You're gonna see him. Soon. And not just in that head of yours. You're gonna see him in real life. I feel like I'm making progress with these people.

ELEVEN: Friends don't lie.

HOPPER: What?

ELEVEN: You say "soon" on day 21. You say "soon" on day 205. You now say "soon" on day 326?

HOPPER: What is this? You're, like, counting the days now like you're some kind of prisoner?

ELEVEN: When is "soon"?

HOPPER: "Soon" is when...it's not dangerous anymore.

ELEVEN: When?

Hopper shrugs.

HOPPER: I don't know.

ELEVEN: On day 500?

HOPPER: I don't know.

ELEVEN: On day 600?

HOPPER: I don't know.

ELEVEN: On day 700? On day 800?

HOPPER: No!

ELEVEN: I need to see him!

HOPPER: I said I-

ELEVEN: Tell me!

Eleven throws her head up, violently pushing the food towards Hopper. He jumps up.

HOPPER: Oh! Shit! Shit!

Eleven stands up.

ELEVEN: Friends don't lie!

Eleven storms into her room, slamming the door shut behind her. Hopper kicks the table.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Joyce rifles under the couch cushions.

JOYCE: Jesus. Have you seen them?

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY**

Jonathan and Will walk into the kitchen from the dining room.

JONATHAN: We're looking, Mum.

WILL: Yeah, we're...we're looking.

Joyce joins Jonathan and Will in the kitchen.

BOB (O.S.): Ah-ha! Found 'em.

Joyce, Jonathan and Will look down the hallway. Bob walks out of the master bedroom.

JOYCE: Oh!

Bob walks towards the kitchen. Joyce walks towards him.

BOB: Hiding under some jeans, sneaky little buggers.

Joyce takes the keys from Bob and kisses him on the cheek.

JOYCE: Thank you. Thank you. You're a life saver.

Joyce walks back to Jonathan and Will.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Can you take Will to school today? I cannot be late again.

JONATHAN: He's staying over now?

Joyce pulls her jacket on.

JOYCE: Can you just take Will, please?

BOB: I can take him.

Joyce, Jonathan, and Will look at Bob.

JOYCE: Will you make sure he gets in okay?

BOB: Yeah, of course. What do you say, big guy? Wanna go for a ride in the Bobmobile?

**EXT. HAWKINS PUBLIC LIBRARY – DAY**

Dustin bikes up, dropping his bike in front of the steps and running up the steps towards the door.

**INT. HAWKINS PUBLIC LIBRARY – SHELVES – DAY**

Dustin browses through the shelves, looking over the titles carefully.

**INT. HAWKINS PUBLIC LIBRARY – FOYER – DAY**

Dustin drops a pile of five books on the reception desk, smiling at Marissa. Marissa glances at the pile of books before looking back at Dustin.

MARISSA: Mr. Henderson, you know the rules. Five at a time.

DUSTIN: Yep.

Dustin points at the side of each book as he counts them.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): One, two, three, four, and five.

Dustin looks back at Marissa. Marissa pulls out his library card.

MARISSA: Ten. You already have five books checked out.

DUSTIN: My mistake. However...I am on a curiosity voyage, and I need my paddles to travel. These books...these books are my paddles.

MARISSA: Five at a time.

DUSTIN: Are you shitting me?

MARISSA: Excuse me?

Dustin looks behind Marissa. He points.

DUSTIN: What the hell is...

Marissa turns to look. The moment she does, Dustin grabs the pile of books and starts running towards the door. Marissa turns back.

MARISSA: Mr. Henderson!

DUSTIN: I need my paddles!

**EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY**

Bob's car drives along.

**INT. BOB'S CAR**

Will looks out the window.

BOB: Was that you I heard milling around last night, or was that a ghost?

Will looks at Bob.

WILL: Yeah. Me, probably.

BOB: Another nightmare?

WILL: Um...no.

Will looks out the window.

BOB: Did I ever tell you about Mr. Baldo?

Will looks at Bob.

WILL: Mr. Baldo?

BOB: Yeah. I was a little younger than you, standing in line for the Ferris wheel at the Roane County Fair.

WILL: Mmm-hmm.

BOB: And suddenly, I feel this fat white glove tap me on the shoulder. I spin around, and there he is. Mr. Baldo. (imitating clown) "Hey, kiddo, would you like a balloon?"

Will smiles. Bob chuckles.

BOB (CONT'D): Go ahead, laugh. It's funny.

Will laughs quietly.

BOB (CONT'D): It wasn't funny back then, I can tell you that. I couldn't get him out of my head. Every night, he would come to me in my dreams. And every night when he came to me...I ran. It got so bad that I made my mum stay in the room with me until I could fall asleep every night.

Will looks sad.

WILL: Really?

BOB: Really. It went on like that for months. And then one day, the nightmares suddenly stopped.

Will looks intrigued.

BOB (CONT'D): Wanna know how?

WILL: How?

BOB: Well, I fell asleep...and just like always, Mr. Baldo came to me. Only this time, I didn't run. This time, I stood my ground. I just looked at Mr. Baldo in his stupid face, and I said, "Go away. Go away!" Just like that, he was gone. Never saw him again. Easy-peasy, right?

Will nods.

WILL: Easy-peasy.

BOB: Just like that.

Bob clicks his fingers.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Max and Lucas walk down the hallway.

MAX: I still don't get why they call him zombie boy. I mean, I get it. He got lost in the woods for a week or something, but why is he a zombie? Because everyone thought he was dead?

LUCAS: Yeah. I mean, we had a funeral for him and everything.

MAX: After a week?

LUCAS: Well, see, some other kid drowned at the quarry. We thought it was Will because his body was super decomposed.

Max stops walking and looks at Lucas. He stops.

MAX: What? Okay, that's not funny.

LUCAS: It's not a joke, all right? It's public knowledge. You can ask anybody. Except Will, because he is really sensitive about it. All right?

MAX: Okay.

Max starts walking again. Lucas follows.

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – DAY**



Bob's car pulls up and Will gets out.

BOB: Have a great day, kiddo.

Will closes the door and starts walking towards the school. Bob drives off. As Will walks towards the school, he seems both sad and contemplative, as if he's thinking about how he can use Bob's advice to scare away the Mind Flayer. Students stare at him as he walks past.

MR. CLARKE (O.S.): The case of Phineas Gage is one of the greatest medical curiosities of all time. Phineas was a railroad worker in 1848 who had a nightmarish accident.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY**

A photo of a skull is projected onto the board using an overhead projector. Mr. Clarke draws a line through it, from the top of the skull down to the jaw.

MR. CLARKE (CONT'D): A large iron rod was driven completely through his head.

Mr. Clarke moves to a different spot behind his desk.

MR. CLARKE (CONT'D): Phineas miraculously survived. He seemed fine. And physically, yes, he was. But his injury resulted in a complete change to his personality.

Max sits behind Will staring at him. Will notices and turns to look at her.

MR. CLARKE (CONT'D): So much so that friends that knew him...

Max looks away.

MR. CLARKE (CONT'D): Started to refer to him as "No longer Gage".

Will turns to look back at Mr. Clarke.

MR. CLARKE (CONT'D): At the time, this was known as the American Crowbar Case. Although it wasn't a-

Dustin slams open the door and runs into the room, panting. He starts to make his way towards his seat.

DUSTIN: I am so sorry, Mr. Clarke. Really, I'm so sorry. Please continue with the class. Don't mind me.

Dustin takes his bag off and sits down.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Really, continue, please. Thanks.

MR. CLARKE: Although it wasn't a crowbar, it was a rod, as I said.

Dustin turns to Lucas, Mike, and Will. They lean towards him. Mr. Clarke continues talking indistinctly in the background.

DUSTIN: (softly) We have to meet. All of us. At lunch, AV Club.

MIKE: (softly) Why?

DUSTIN: (softly) I have something that you won't believe.

Dustin turns to face the front. Mike, Lucas, and Will lean away to sit normally in their seats. Dustin turns the other way to talk to Max.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): (softly) AV Club. Lunch.

Max leans forward, as if she's trying to understand what he's saying.

MR. CLARKE: Dustin!

Dustin quickly turns to the front.

DUSTIN: Yes, my lord?

MR. CLARKE: Would you care to join the class now?

DUSTIN: Please, yes.

Dustin reaches down to unzip his bag.

MR. CLARKE: The case of Phineas Gage.

DUSTIN: Phineas Gage.

Dustin unzips his bag. We see the ghost trap inside.

MR. CLARKE: Page 104.

DUSTIN: 104. 104.

Dustin grabs his textbook out of his bag.

MR. CLARKE: Focus.

DUSTIN: Focusing. Focusing.

Dustin puts his textbook on his desk. He turns to look at Max.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): (softly) AV Club.

Max holds up a thumbs up. Dustin grins, holding a thumbs up. He turns back to the front.

MR. CLARKE: And he began to curse, using terrible words that I don't dare repeat here.

Dart chitters, muffled by the ghost trap. The trap shakes. Dustin quickly reaches down and zips up his bag.

**EXT. HAWKINS POLICE STATION – DAY**

POWELL (O.S.): And we found some more by Gilbert's farm.

**INT. HAWKINS POLICE STATION – JOINT OFFICE AREA – DAY**

Hopper stands in front of a pinboard, a map of Hawkins pinned onto it. He makes a marking. Callahan and Powell sit on the desk and chair behind him.

CALLAHAN: Some real nasty stuff. It was sticky.

HOPPER: All right. Where else?

Hopper turns to look at Callahan and Powell. Powell closes his notepad.

POWELL: That was it, Chief.

HOPPER: That was it, or did you just get tired of looking?

POWELL: It was getting dark.

CALLAHAN: I mean, it was really dark.

HOPPER: They're called flashlights, you dipshits.

CALLAHAN: Oh, okay. Someone woke up on the wrong side of the bed this morning.

Hopper stares at the map, noticing the drawn Xs are close to Hawkins Lab.

POWELL: More lady problems, Chief?

Hopper tears the map down. He turns around and pushes Callahan out of the way, putting the map on the desk. He grabs a red marker and draws circles between the Xs, one big, one medium, one small. They look like shockwaves coming out of Hawkins Lab. Hopper puts the tip of the marker onto Hawkins Lab, leaving a red dot. He grabs the map and folds it up, walking away to grab his jacket and hat.

POWELL: Hey, Chief! Where you going?

Hopper doesn't answer, only walking towards the door. Florence hands him his keys as he walks past. Powell and Callahan watch as he goes, confused and annoyed.

POWELL (CONT'D): You want us to go back out there?

CALLAHAN: Why's he gotta kick the door?

POWELL: Hey, Chief!

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – DAY**

Eleven lays in bed, staring at the TV, which is turned off. She sits up, turning her attention to the black blindfold that hangs over the foot of her bed.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – DAY**

Eleven sits on her bed, tying the blindfold around her head and tightening it. She sighs before pulling it off. She looks at the door.

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Eleven carefully opens her bedroom door and walks out, looking around. She slowly makes her way towards the front door, staring at it. She pauses in front of it.

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Hopper opens the front door, kicking his boots against the door frame before walking inside. Eleven pauses in the doorframe and does the same, before she looks up and around the cabin.*

*HOPPER: My granddad used to live here.*

*Hopper closes the door behind Eleven.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D): Long time ago. I mainly just use it for storage now.*

Eleven looks around. Hopper walks over to a box labelled 'Sara'.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Lot of history here.

Hopper hides the box under a sheet. He stands up and looks at Eleven.

HOPPER (CONT'D): So, uh...what do you think?

Eleven looks at Hopper briefly.

HOPPER (CONT'D): It's a work-in-progress. You know, it's, uh...it takes a little imagination, but, uh...you know, once we fix it up, it's gonna be nice. Real nice.

Hopper smiles.

HOPPER (CONT'D): This is your new home.

Eleven turns to look at Hopper.

ELEVEN: Home.

Hopper opens a vinyl case and flicks through the vinyls inside. He pulls out a vinyl of 'You Don't Mess Around With Jim' by Jim Croce.

HOPPER: Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Hopper holds the vinyl up to show Eleven the cover.

HOPPER (CONT'D): All right, this...this is music.

Hopper pulls the vinyl out and slots it onto the record player, dropping the pin. 'You Don't Mess Around With Jim' by Jim Croce starts playing. It startles Eleven. Hopper starts to dance along, making Eleven look a little more at ease.

JIM CROCE (ON RECORD PLAYER): (singing) Uptown got its hustlers...the bowery got its bums...42nd Street got Big Jim Walker...

HOPPER: All right.

Hopper claps.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Let's get to work.

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – DAY**

She pulls a sheet off the bed, causing dust to fly up. She coughs.

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Eleven attempts to sweep the floor, pushing the broom in the wrong direction.

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Hopper pulls a sheet off a window.

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Hopper walks over and Eleven hands him the broom.

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Hopper pulls a sheet off a window.*

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Hopper shows Eleven how to use the broom.*

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Hopper drills locks into the door.*

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Eleven takes the broom from Hopper and starts sweeping the right way.*

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – ELEVEN’S ROOM – DAY**

*Eleven sits on the bed and bounces. She looks around the room and smiles.*

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Hopper and Eleven sit at the dining table. A radio sits on the table in front of them, along with a Morse code guide. Hopper presses the button on the transmitter a few times, showing Eleven how to use it, before he hands it to her. Eleven presses the button.*

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – KITCHEN – DAY**

*Hopper fills the shelves with food. Eleven watches from the little dining table, where she sits completing a puzzle. Hopper looks at Eleven briefly before putting a box of Eggos in the freezer.*

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Eleven sits at the little dining table. She presses the button on the transmitter. Hopper nods. Eleven smiles.*

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Eleven sits at the little dining table. She sits completing a puzzle. She looks over at Hopper as he places a TV at the far end of the lounge room. He puts an antenna on top.*

**FLSHBCK – INT. HOPPER’S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Hopper puts mouse traps together.*

**FLSHBCK – EXT. HOPPER’S CABIN – FRONT YARD – DAY**

*Hopper fixes wire around a screw in a tree, pulling the wire to another tree, where a mouse trap is fixed on. Hopper sits down beside the tree. Eleven kneels beside him, holding wire cutters.*

*HOPPER: Give me those.*

*Eleven hands the wire cutters to Hopper.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D): Okay. Now this is called a trip wire.*

*Hopper cuts the wire, putting the spool on the ground. He starts twisting the end of the wire.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D): It's like an alarm. You, uh, set it up like this.*

*Hopper loops the wire onto the mouse trap.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D): And then, anybody gets close, it's gonna make a loud noise, like, uh, gunfire. Bang!*

*Eleven jumps. Hopper chuckles, rubbing her arm.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D): Those bad men aren't gonna find ya. All right? Not way the hell out here. We'll take some precautions. There's gonna be a couple ground rules.*

**FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – KITCHEN – DAY**

*Hopper and Eleven sit on either side of the kitchen counter. Hopper slides a piece of paper in front of Eleven.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D): Rule number one: always keep the curtains drawn.*

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*Eleven throws open the curtains of one window and pulls the blinds up.*

**FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – KITCHEN – DAY**

*Hopper and Eleven sit on either side of the counter.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D): Rule number two: only open the door if you hear my secret knock.*

*Hopper knocks on the counter six times in a pattern.*

**INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

*The locks on the front door unlock. Eleven opens it.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): And rule number three:*

**FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – KITCHEN – DAY**

*Hopper and Eleven sit on either side of the counter.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D): Don't ever go out alone, especially not in the daylight.*

**EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – DAY**

*Eleven walks out and stands on the porch. She looks back at the cabin behind her.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): That's it. Three rules.*

**FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – KITCHEN – DAY**

*Hopper and Eleven sit on either side of the counter.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D): I call 'em the, uh... Don't Be Stupid Rules.*

**EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – DAY**

*Eleven walks away from the cabin. She comes across the trip wire.*

*HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): Cause we're not stupid. Right?*

*ELEVEN: Not stupid.*

*Eleven steps over the trip wire. She walks away from the cabin.*

**INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – DAY**

Steve, Billy, and a few other students play basketball. Steve faces off against Billy, dribbling the ball. Steve pushes up against Billy.

BILLY: Harrington, right? I heard you used to run this school. That true? King Steve, they used to call you, huh? Then you turned bitch.

STEVE: Hey, maybe you should just shut up and just play the game.

Billy pushes Steve to the floor and starts to run away, dribbling the ball. Steve rushes to get up and run after him. Billy shoots the basketball into the hoop and gets it in.

STUDENT: Whoo! That's what I'm talking about! Whoo!

Billy stands under the hoop, grinning at Steve. Steve leans on his knees, puffed and sweaty. Nancy enters the gym from the back door.

NANCY: Steve?

Steve turns to see Nancy.

**EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – ALLEY – DAY**

Steve and Nancy face each other.

STEVE: What are you doing here?

NANCY: What do you think? Where were you this morning? I missed first period.

STEVE: I figured Jonathan would take you.

NANCY: What...what are you talking about?

Steve scoffs.

STEVE: Jesus, you really can't handle your alcohol. Uh...you remember going to Tina's party last night, right?

NANCY: Yes.

STEVE: Okay, and then what?

NANCY: I remember dancing, and...spilling some punch. You got mad at me because I was drunk...and then you took me home.

Steve scoffs. He takes the small towel off his shoulder and wraps it behind his neck.

STEVE: No, yeah, see, that's where your mind gets a little bit fuzzy. That was your other boyfriend. That was...that was Jonathan.

NANCY: I don't understand.

STEVE: It's pretty simple, Nancy. You were just telling it like it is.

NANCY: What?

STEVE: Uh...apparently, uh...we killed Barb and I don't care, cause I'm bullshit...and our whole...our whole relationship is bullshit, and...I mean, pretty much everything is just bullshit, bullshit, bullshit. Oh, yeah, also, you don't love me.

NANCY: I was drunk, Steve. I don't remember any of that.

STEVE: So that makes everything that you said...it's what? It's just bullshit, too?

NANCY: Yes.

STEVE: Well, then tell me.

NANCY: Tell you what?

STEVE: You love me.

Nancy looks taken aback.

NANCY: Really?

The gym back door slams open and a student runs into the entrance of the alley.

STUDENT: Harrington! Dude, we need you, man. That douchebag's killing us. Let's go!

STEVE: All right!

STUDENT: Come on!

Steve stares at Nancy, silently urging her to say something. Nancy says nothing, briefly meeting his gaze before looking down. Steve shakes his head and walks away.

STEVE: I think that you're bullshit.

Steve runs into the gym, leaving Nancy alone in the alley.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – AV ROOM – DAY**

Dustin, Lucas, Mike, Will, and Max crowd around the table. Dustin opens the trap. Dart chitters. The group leans in for a better look.

DUSTIN: His name is d'Artagnan.

Dustin reaches into the trap and pulls Dart out.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Cute, right?

MIKE: D'Artagnan?

DUSTIN: Dart for short.

MAX: And he was in your trash?

DUSTIN: Foraging for food. You wanna hold him?

MAX: No, no.

Dustin moves to hand Dart to Max.

DUSTIN: He doesn't bite.



MAX: I don't want to-

DUSTIN: Don't worry, don't worry.

Dustin hands Dart off to Max. She freaks.

MAX: Oh, God, he's slimy!

Max quickly hands Dart off to Lucas. Lucas doesn't like it.

LUCAS: Ugh, he's like a living booger.

Lucas hands Dart off to Will. Will looks disgusted.

WILL: Ugh, oh, God!

Will quickly hands Dart off to Mike. Mike looks intrigued by Dart, staring at him as he sits in his palms.

MIKE: What is he?

DUSTIN: My question exactly.

#### **INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – AV ROOM – DAY**

Dustin, Lucas, Will, Mike, and Max crowd around the table. Dustin sets a pile of books down on the table.

DUSTIN: At first, I thought it was some type of pollywog.

MAX: Pollywog?

DUSTIN: It's another word for tadpole. A tadpole is the larval stage of a toad.

MAX: I know what a tadpole is.

DUSTIN: All right, then you know that most tadpoles are aquatic, right?

Dustin sets a book down, open to a page on tadpoles.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Well, Dart, he isn't. He doesn't need water.

LUCAS: Yeah, but aren't there nonaquatic pollywogs?

DUSTIN: Terrestrial pollywogs? Yes. Two to be exact.

Dustin sets another book down, open to a page on *Indirana semipalmata*.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): *Indirana semipalmata*.

Dustin sets another book down, open to a page on *Adenomera andreae*.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): And the *Adenomera andreae*. One's from India, one's from South America. So how did one end up in my trash?

MAX: Maybe some scientists brought it here, and it escaped?

MIKE: Do you guys see that?

Mike watches Dart, who sits trapped in a few loops set down on the table.

MIKE (CONT'D): It looks like something's moving inside of it.

The group peers into the section Dart is contained in. There's movement in Dart's lower half. Lucas moves the lamp over Dart to light him up. Dart screeches. The group jumps back. Dart climbs over the loops he's contained in, moving towards the edge of the table. Dustin quickly puts his hand out and catches him.

DUSTIN: Whoa.

Dustin lifts Dart up.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): It's okay. It's okay. I got you, little guy.

Dart chitters. The others look at Dustin with weirded out looks.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I know you don't like that. It's okay.

Will seems to notice something about Dart, but he doesn't say anything. Dustin looks up.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): And there's another thing. Reptiles, they're cold-blooded. Ectothermic, right? They love heat, the sun. Dart hates it. It hurts him.

LUCAS: So, if he's not a pollywog or a reptile...

DUSTIN: Then I've discovered a new species.

Dart chitters. Dustin starts to pet him. Will stares at Dart. His eyes widen.

Flashback to #108. The Byers bathroom. Will coughing up a larva.

Flashback to #202. Loch Nora. The world looking like the Upside Down. A chittering coming from all directions. Will looking around.

Realisation sets in on Will's face. The bell rings, startling the group. Will jumps the most. They rush to grab their things.

#### **INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Lucas opens the door to the AV room and walks out, followed by Dustin and Mike. Max and Will walk a little behind.

LUCAS: We gotta show him to Mr. Clarke.

DUSTIN: No, what if he steals my discovery?

MIKE: He's not gonna steal your discovery.

DUSTIN: You know, I'm thinking of calling it *Dustonius pollywogus*.

Max walks up alongside Dustin. He looks at her.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): What do you think?

MAX: I think you're an idiot.

DUSTIN: You know, when I become rich and famous for this one day...

The group splits off, leaving Will behind.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Don't come crawling back to me, saying, "Oh, my God, Dustin, I'm so sorry for being mean to you back in eighth grade. Oh, my God."

**INT. MELVALD'S GENERAL STORE – DAY**

Joyce opens the cash draw of her register and pulls out change for a customer. Joyce smiles as she hands it over.

JOYCE: Have a nice day.

CUSTOMER: Thank you.

The customer walks away, revealing Bob behind him. Bob walks up to the register. He holds up two brown paper bags.

BOB: Baloney?

**EXT. MELVALD'S GENERAL STORE – DAY**

Bob and Joyce sit on a bench next to Bob's car, eating sandwiches.

BOB: Mmm. Last night was fun.

JOYCE: Mmm-hmm.

BOB: I'm sorry if I overstepped anything.

JOYCE: No! No, you didn't.

BOB: Okay. I mean...I just...I like you so much. Not just you, everything that comes with you. Your family, your boys. And I hope it's not wishful thinking, but...I kinda feel like I'm breaking through with them. I mean, not so much Jonathan. He's a tough cookie to crack, but...

JOYCE: Yeah.

BOB: With Will, I don't know, I feel like we're connecting.

JOYCE: He likes you, too.

BOB: Yeah?

JOYCE: Mmm-hmm. I can tell.

BOB: Good.

Bob opens a can of Dr. Pepper.

BOB (CONT'D): Oh, there was...something else I was gonna mention, but...it's not a big deal at all, but...I just noticed this morning that my JVC was a little dinged up.

JOYCE: Your what?

BOB: The video camera.

JOYCE: Oh.

BOB: Yeah. It still works fine and everything. I just...I went back and watched the tape...and there were some older kids picking on Will.

JOYCE: What?

BOB: They scared him.

JOYCE: Who were they? Were they the Zimmerman brothers again?

BOB: Uh, I don't know. They were wearing masks or sort of makeup and...maybe. They were the right age.

JOYCE: I'll kill them. I swear to God, I will...I will kill them.

BOB: That's what I love about you. You punch back.

Joyce looks at Bob, looking slightly confused. Bob chuckles.

BOB (CONT'D): I was never really one to put up a fight. I struggled a lot like Will when I was a kid. With bullies.

Bob sighs. Joyce looks a little sad.

BOB (CONT'D): It's the ones like us, that don't punch back, that people really take advantage of, you know? They rub your nose in it, just a little bit more. I don't know why they do that. Maybe it makes them feel powerful. I don't know. But, hey, look at me now. I get to date Joyce Byers. Ha!

Joyce chuckles.

BOB (CONT'D): Are you kidding me? I get to date...

Bob's voice gets higher, and 'Joyce Byers's is barely heard. Joyce laughs.

BOB (CONT'D): See, it all works out in the end, doesn't it?

JOYCE: Yes, it does.

The pair share a kiss. Bob chuckles as he takes a sip of his Dr. Pepper. Joyce looks a little sad.

#### **EXT. HAWKINS LAB – DAY**

HOPPER (O.S.): Grass, crops, trees. Everything in this area is either dead or dying, and that's a radius of over three miles. And it all leads back to here.

#### **INT. HAWKINS LAB – OWENS' OFFICE – DAY**

Hopper shows Owens the marked-up map, which lays on Owens' desk.

OWENS: See, these patterns here are really pretty. I like the design. It's almost psychedelic.

Hopper sighs and sits down.

HOPPER: This is a joke to you, huh?

OWENS: No, it's not a joke. I just...I really...I don't understand what this has to do with me, Chief Hopper.

HOPPER: Whatever is happening is spreading from this place, from this lab.

OWENS: That's impossible. It's...the last burn was...it was two days ago.

Owens moves to the other side of the desk.

OWENS (CONT'D): It's contained.

HOPPER: What if there's a leak?

OWENS: A leak?

Owens scoffs.

Hopper: I don't know, man. You're the scientist.

OWENS: Exactly. And I'm telling you there's nothing to worry about.

HOPPER: Convince me.

OWENS: Convince you?

Hopper stands up.

HOPPER: Yeah. You and your egghead friends go out there to every area on this map and you run your tests, or whatever it the hell it is you do, and you see if anything comes up.

Owens scoffs.

OWENS: All right, so...so you're...you're giving me orders now?

Owens shakes his head.

OWENS (CONT'D): No.

HOPPER: I keep things nice and quiet for you...

OWENS: Mmm-hmm.

HOPPER: And you keep your shit out of my town. That is the deal. I have done my part, now you do yours.

Hopper pushes the map towards Owens.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Convince me.

**EXT. HAWKINS SCHOOL – CAR PARK – DAY**

Nancy and Jonathan sit on the hood of Jonathan's car, eating lunch.

NANCY: So, he asked you to take me home?

JONATHAN: Yeah. Yeah, he was upset. I mean, he was...he was really upset.

Nancy looks guilty and upset.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): But he was still worried about you.

Nancy doesn't say anything. Jonathan puts his sandwich down.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Hey. You need to cut yourself some slack, okay? People say stupid things when they're wasted. Things they don't mean.

NANCY: Yeah, but that's the thing. What if I did mean it? All this time, I've been trying so hard to pretend like everything's fine, but it's not. I...I feel like there's this...I don't know, like this...

JONATHAN: Like there's this weight you're carrying around with you. All the time. I feel it, too.

NANCY: Yeah, but it's different for you. Will came home.

JONATHAN: Yeah. Yeah, he did. But he's not the same. I try to be there for him, you know, to help him, but...

Jonathan sighs.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): I don't know. I mean, maybe...maybe things just can't go back to the way they were.

NANCY: Doesn't that make you mad?

JONATHAN: Mad?

NANCY: Yeah, that those...those people who did this, who ruined so many lives, they just get away with it.

JONATHAN: The people responsible for this...they're dead.

NANCY: Do you really believe that?

Jonathan looks unsure. Nancy notices something in the distance. Jonathan follows her gaze to a student sitting on a nearby bench. He wears a Walkman and headphones, fidgeting with his Walkman. A rock song starts playing indistinctly from his headphones. Nancy has a moment of realisation.

NANCY (CONT'D): Your mum's boyfriend. He works at RadioShack, right?

JONATHAN: Yeah. But why? What are you thinking?

NANCY: Do you wanna skip fourth period?

**EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY**

Eleven walks through the woods.

WOMAN (O.S.): Isn't this fun?

The woman laughs. Eleven pauses and looks up, walking quickly towards the source of the noise. She sees a mother pushing her child on a swing set behind their house. The woman laughs again.

WOMAN (CONT'D)(O.S.): Pump your feet.

HOPPER (O.S.): "I would feel so sad if I thought I was a disappointment to her..."

**FLASHBACK – INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – ELEVEN'S ROOM – NIGHT**

Eleven lays in bed. Hopper sits on a chair beside her, reading *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery.

HOPPER (CONT'D): "...because she didn't live very long after that, you see. She died of a fever when I was just three months old. I do wish she'd live long enough for me to remember calling her mother. I think it would be so sweet to say 'mother'."

ELEVEN: Do I have a mother?

*Hopper looks up from the book.*

HOPPER: *Yeah, of course you have a mother. You couldn't really be born without one.*

ELEVEN: *Where is she?*

HOPPER: *She...she's not around anymore.*

ELEVEN: *Gone?*

HOPPER: *Yeah.*

*Eleven looks sad. She tries to hold off tears.*

HOPPER (CONT'D): *I'm sorry about that, kid.*

*Hopper looks back down at the book. As Hopper begins to read again, Eleven tries to calm herself down.*

HOPPER (CONT'D): *"And, uh, father died four days afterwards from fever, too. That left me an orphan and folks were at their wits' end, so Mrs. Thomas said to me, what to do with me. You see, nobody wanted me even then."*

#### **EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY**

HOPPER (CONT'D)(O.S.): *"It seems to be my fate."*

WOMAN (O.S.): *Is your mum here? Sweetie?*

*Eleven snaps out of her daze and notices the mother and child standing a short distance in front of her. The mother looks concerned.*

ELEVEN: *School. Where is school?*

WOMAN: *The school? It's, uh...it's about a mile that way.*

*The mother points in a direction. Eleven looks towards the direction she pointed.*

WOMAN (CONT'D): *At least. Where are your parents?*

*Eleven doesn't say anything. The faint sound of metal squeaking can be heard, and the girl turns to look at the swing set. She gets her mother's attention.*

GIRL: *Look, Mummy, look.*

*The mother turns to see one of the swings on the swing set swinging rapidly, looping itself over the top bar. It comes to the end of the chains with a squeal. The mother turns to look at Eleven. Eleven is gone.*

#### **EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – DAY**

*Joyce pulls up.*

#### **INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – WILL'S ROOM – DAY**

*Joyce opens the door, looking around. She spots the JVC on Will's dresser and walks over. She picks it up and finds the eject button, pressing it. The cassette holder pops open, and Joyce grabs the cassette.*

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Joyce opens the VCR and slides the cassette inside, closing the lid. It pops open straight away. Joyce looks confused and tries to force it to close, but it doesn't work, popping open again. Joyce pulls the cassette out and looks between it and the VCR in confusion.

**INT. RADIO SHACK – DAY**

Bob sits behind the front counter, fiddling with some wires. The phone rings, and he picks it up.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Joyce sits on the floor, JVC in her lap and cords on the floor around her.

BOB (ON PHONE): RadioShack, Bob Newby speaking. How can I help ya?

JOYCE: Bob, it's Joyce.

**INT. RADIO SHACK – DAY**

BOB: Hey, Joyce, how ya doing?

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

JOYCE: Hey, um...I'm trying to watch your video thingy, and the tape, it's...it's tiny. It's like it's shrunk.

Bob chuckles.

**INT. RADIO SHACK – DAY**

BOB: That's cause it's a VHS-C, not a VHS. You gotta find the RF-P1U with coaxial cable so you can connect the video ins and outs.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

JOYCE: Bob, English.

**INT. RADIO SHACK – DAY**

BOB: Right. Sorry. Um...

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Joyce sits on the floor in front of the TV.

JOYCE: No, yeah, I did the coaxial things in the back, so I...this one just goes into the camera itself?

BOB (ON PHONE): Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

Joyce plugs a cable into the JVC. The TV turns blue.

JOYCE: It's blue. I think it's working.

**INT. RADIO SHACK – DAY**

BOB: I was thinking maybe tonight-

There's a dial tone.



BOB (CONT'D): Joyce?

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Joyce presses the play button on the JVC. She turns her attention to the TV, watching the recordings from the night before.

BOB (ON VIDEO): So you hit T to zoom in, and W zooms back out. See? Easy-peasy.

Joyce presses the fast forward button on the JVC and watches as the recording fast forwards. When it reaches the recording of the teens bullying Will, she rewinds.

WEREWOLF (ON VIDEO): Watch it, zombie boy.

JASON VORHEES (ON VIDEO): Trick or treat, freak.

CLOWN (ON VIDEO): Boo!

The JVC drops to the ground. The boys laugh.

CLOWN (CONT'D)(ON VIDEO): Loser.

WILL (ON VIDEO): Mike! Mike!

Will can be seen in the recording, back to the JVC. The video gets static-y, white dots appearing and lines running through it. Joyce reaches over and presses the pause button on the JVC. The shadow of the Mind Flayer can be seen on the screen, outline by white dots. Joyce reaches out and touches Mind Flayer on the screen. The pause disappears. Joyce realises in horror what it is she's seeing, quickly getting up.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY**

Joyce runs inside and opens a drawer, pulling out a roll of baking paper. She unrolls it and rips a sheet off. She grabs a blue crayon from a container on the counter and runs back to the lounge room.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Joyce runs inside and kneels in front of the TV. She places the sheet of baking paper over the screen and uses the blue crayon to draw over the shadow of the Mind Flayer. Once done, she pulls the baking paper away and looks in horror at what she's drawn.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY**

Joyce runs inside, straight towards Will's drawing of the Mind Flayer on the kitchen table. She puts the drawing of what was on the recording beside Will's drawing and compares them. Joyce realises in horror that the being in both are the same being.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

The bell rings. Will stands at his locker. Mike stands a short distance away.

MIKE: Will, you coming? Let's go show Mr. Clarke.

Will looks nervous. He walks towards Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D): What? What?

WILL: It's about d'Artagnan.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY**

Dustin, Lucas, Max, and Mr. Clarke stand around Mr. Clarke's desk.

DUSTIN: This is the reason I was late for class.

Dustin puts the ghost trap on Mr. Clarke's desk. Mr. Clarke reaches out to touch it.

MR. CLARKE: Pretty neat. These doors function?

DUSTIN: Well, yeah, obviously. But it's not about the trap. It's what's inside. Now, this very well may change your perception of the world.

MR. CLARKE: Consider my interest piqued.

DUSTIN: All right, first, let's just clarify that...this is my discovery, not yours.

LUCAS: Dustin, Jesus! Just...just show him!

DUSTIN: All right, I'm just trying to clarify-

MAX: Dustin!

DUSTIN: Okay, fine.

The door opens. Mike and Will run into the classroom.

MIKE: Stop!

Mike runs up to the desk. Lucas and Max jump out of the way.

MIKE (CONT'D): I'm really sorry, Mr. Clarke. It was just a stupid prank.

Mike grabs the ghost trap.

DUSTIN: What the hell are you doing?

MIKE: I told him to stop. We need to go.

Mike starts to walk towards the door.

DUSTIN: Mike!

MIKE: Right now. Right now!

Mike runs out of the room. Will, Dustin, Lucas, and Max quickly grab their things and follow him, leaving Mr. Clarke behind. He scratches behind his ear in confusion.

**EXT. HAWKINS SCHOOL – CAR PARK – DAY**

Billy and Vicki lean against the side of Billy's car.

VICKI: So, your sister coming or what?

Billy checks his watch.

BILLY: Screw it. That little shit can skate home.

Billy moves to get into the driver's side of the car. Vicki moves to get into the passenger side.

BILLY (CONT'D): And don't call her that.

VICKI: What?

BILLY: Sister. She's not my sister.

Billy and Vicki get into the car. Billy quickly reverses out of his parking spot and peels away.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Max bangs on the door of the AV room.

MAX: Hello? Hello? Guys, come on. Can I come in yet?

MIKE (O.S.): No!

Max sighs, annoyed. She hits the door.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – AV ROOM – DAY**

The ghost trap sits on the table. Lucas, Dustin, Mike, and Will crowd around it.

LUCAS: I don't understand.

MIKE: What do you not understand?

LUCAS: Will saw something that looked like Dart last year?

WILL: Kind of, but there was no tail.

MIKE: But then he heard it yesterday. The exact same sound.

DUSTIN: Why didn't you tell us before?

WILL: I wasn't sure.

DUSTIN: So, it's a coincidence.

MIKE: Or not. What if when Will was stuck in the Upside Down, he somehow acquired True Sight?

LUCAS: True Sight?

DUSTIN: It gives you the power to see into the ethereal plane.

Lucas sighs.

LUCAS: Elaborate.

MIKE: Maybe these episodes that Will keeps having aren't really flashbacks at all. Maybe they're real. Maybe Will can somehow see into the Upside Down.

LUCAS: So that would mean...

MIKE: Dart is from the Upside Down.

Lucas sighs.

LUCAS: We have to take him to Hopper.

MIKE: I agree.

DUSTIN: No. No way. If we take him to Hopper, Dart's as good as dead.

MIKE: Maybe he should be dead.

DUSTIN: How can you say that?

MIKE: How can you not? He's from the Upside Down.

DUSTIN: Maybe. But even if he is, it doesn't automatically mean that he's bad.

MIKE: That's like saying just because someone's from the Death Star doesn't make them bad.

DUSTIN: We have a bond.

MIKE: A bond? Just because he likes nougat?

DUSTIN: No, because he trusts me!

LUCAS: He trusts you?

DUSTIN: Yes, I promised that I would take care of him.

Dart screeches inside the ghost trap. It shakes. The boys start to back away.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Max sits on the floor against the wall. She bangs on the door of the AV room.

MAX: Guys, what's going on? Come on.

Max sighs and leans against the wall. She looks over at her bag. She moves over and unzips it, finding a paperclip on a notebook. She moves to the door handle and starts to pick the lock.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – AV ROOM – DAY**

Dart screeches. The trap shakes. It tips over. Mike quickly reaches over and grabs the microphone from off the desk.

DUSTIN: Don't hurt him.

MIKE: Only if he attacks.

LUCAS: Just open it already.

Dustin reaches forward and grabs the pedal for the trap, moving back. He presses the pedal, and the doors flap open. Dart tumbles out, bigger than before. Dustin drops the pedal.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Holy shit!

Dart crawls away from the trap. He screeches. The boys watch in fear as Dart grows back legs, fluid leaking onto the table as they pop out.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Oh, shit!

Dart screeches. Mike moves to wack Dart with the microphone, but Dustin reaches out to stop him.

DUSTIN: No!

The microphone hits the table, missing Dart. Dart crawls off the table and lands on the floor, quickly making his way towards the door.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Max unpicks the lock, the door swinging open just in time for Dart to run out.

MAX: What the...

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – AV ROOM – DAY**

MIKE: Oh, shit!

The boys quickly run towards the door.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Dustin runs into Max as he runs out the door, the pair falling to the floor and tripping Lucas over. Mike avoids them and runs to look down the hallway.

LUCAS: Where'd it go?

Dustin, Lucas, and Max get up.

MAX: What was that?

MIKE: Dart!

MAX: What?

MIKE: You let him escape!

Dustin gets in Mike's face.

DUSTIN: Why did you attack him?

Mike pushes past Dustin and starts to run down the hallway.

MIKE: Come on.

DUSTIN: Don't hurt him. Don't you hurt him!

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Nancy and Jonathan walk in through the back door and start to head towards the staircase. Karen notices them from the kitchen, but they don't seem to notice her.

KAREN: Jonathan?

Nancy and Jonathan quickly walk back to greet Karen. Nancy looks surprised to see her.

JONATHAN: Uh...Mrs. Wheeler.

KAREN: What a pleasant surprise.

JONATHAN: Yeah. Uh, we have a test tomorrow.

KAREN: Hmm.

Karen notices the RadioShack bag in Nancy's hand.

KAREN (CONT'D): Oh, did you go shopping?

NANCY: Oh, uh, yeah. My...my Walkman broke.

KAREN: Aw.

JONATHAN: Bummer.

NANCY: Anyway, we should go. It's a...it's a really big test.

JONATHAN: Yeah.

NANCY: So...

JONATHAN: Stressful.

NANCY: Very.

Nancy and Jonathan move towards the staircase.

JONATHAN: Bye, Mrs. Wheeler.

KAREN: Bye! It's good to see you.

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – NANCY'S ROOM – DAY**

Nancy sits on her bed. Jonathan paces the room. He sighs.

JONATHAN: Okay, are you sure about this?

NANCY: No.

Nancy reaches over to her bedside table and grabs her phone, pulling it to sit on the bed in front of her. Jonathan sits on the bed. Nancy picks up the handset and starts to dial the Holland's number.

**INT. HOLLAND HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Marsha sits on the couch, reading a book. The phone rings. She closes her book and picks the phone up.

MARSHA: Hello. Marsha speaking. Hello?

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – NANCY'S ROOM – DAY**

Nancy looks unsure.

MARSHA (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): Hello?

NANCY: Mrs. Holland. Hi, it's, um...it's Nancy.

**INT. HOLLAND HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

MARSHA: Nancy?

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – NANCY'S ROOM – DAY**

NANCY: I, uh...I need to tell you something. Something about Barb.

**INT. HOLLAND HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY**

Marsha looks concerned.

NANCY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): About that night. I, uh...

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – NANCY'S ROOM – DAY**

NANCY (CONT'D): I, uh...I haven't been honest with you.

Nancy looks up at Jonathan. He gives a small nod.

NANCY (CONT'D): But I...I can't tell you here on the phone.

**INT. HAWKINS LAB – RADIO ROOM – DAY**

An agent listens in on the phone call through headphones.

NANCY (CONT'D)(ON HEADPHONES): Meet me tomorrow, Forrest Hills Park, 9:00am. Don't tell anyone. And don't call me back here. It's dangerous.

MARSHA (ON HEADPHONES): Nancy, what is this?

NANCY (ON HEADPHONES): I just need you to trust me. Please.

**INT. WHEELER HOUSE – NANCY'S ROOM – DAY**

Nancy hangs up. She looks nervous, worried. She looks at Jonathan.

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – DAY**

Agents in hazmat suits fill the area. Some use tools to dig up soil and put them it into containers. Some transport rotting pumpkins into cases. Others collect samples from pumpkins. Hopper and Owens stand to the side, watching them.

OWENS: Well, you were right about these pumpkins. Some nasty stuff. And the smell...gee, mother of God.

HOPPER: So what exactly do you think is going on-

OWENS: Well, I told you what I think. But we'll run the tests and we'll see what comes up. In the meantime, I just need you to keep the area clear for us. I don't think it'll be more than a day or two.

HOPPER: What do you want me to tell people?

OWENS: I'm sure you'll figure something out.

Owens taps Hopper on the shoulder and walks off.

POWELL (ON RADIO): Hey, Chief, you copy?

Hopper pulls his radio out.

HOPPER: Yeah.

**EXT. WOODS – DAY**

Callahan talks to the mother Eleven encountered earlier, who tells the story while holding her daughter on her hip. Powell walks through the woods.

POWELL: Do you remember that Russian girl Murray was going on about the other day?

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – DAY**

Hopper looks over at Owens as he approaches his car.

**EXT. WOODS – DAY**

POWELL (CONT'D): Yeah, well, now I'm thinking he's not so crazy after all.

**EXT. MERRILL FARM – PUMPKIN PATCH – DAY**

Hopper starts running towards his truck.

HOPPER: Stay where you are. Do not move.

Owens watches as Hopper gets in his truck and peels away.

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – DAY**

Eleven walks out of the woods.

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – BIKE RACK – DAY**

Eleven runs up and sees Mike, Dustin, and Lucas' bikes still parked in the rack. She reaches out and touches the handle on Mike's bike, looking sad. She looks up at the school, and a look of determination crosses her face. She walks away from the bike rack and towards the school.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Mike rounds a corner and starts walking down the hallway. He holds his Supercomm.

MIKE: (to Supercomm) East is clear. No sign of Dart.

Mike walks up a set of stairs.

MIKE (CONT'D): Where'd you go, you little bastard?

Mike continues down the hallway. We see Eleven walking the opposite direction in a parallel hallway. She pauses when she sees Mike walk past, turning to walk down the small hallway that joins the parallel hallways. She looks both ways down the hallway before turning to walk the opposite direction to Mike.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Dustin round a corner and starts walking down the hallway. He wears his headset. He passes Mr. Clarke. Dustin gives an awkward salute, which Mr. Clarke returns before walking towards the door. Dustin turns and walks down the hallway.

DUSTIN: (to Supercomm) West is clear, too. Will?

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Will checks a classroom. He holds his Supercomm.

WILL: (to Supercomm) South is clear. Lucas?

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Lucas walks down a hallway. He holds his Supercomm.



WILL (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): Anything?

Lucas kicks open the door to a classroom. He's shocked to find a teacher inside, packing her bag.

TEACHER: Excuse me! Mr. Sinclair!

LUCAS: So...sorry. I...I was looking for study hall.

Lucas quickly backs out of the room and walks back down the hallway.

LUCAS (CONT'D): (to Supercomm) Nothing here, man.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – DAY**

Mike opens the door and walks inside, looking around. He hears a noise and looks up to see the door to the boys' locker room swinging. He looks around before walking over.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – BOYS' LOCKER ROOM – DAY**

Mike slowly rounds the corner, looking around as he walks into the locker room. He finds a mop propped up against a wall and grabs it, holding it out as a weapon. Mike slowly continues into the locker room. Something clatters further inside, and he hides behind a group of lockers. He hypes himself up before jumping out, holding the mop out and yelling. Max turns around, looking annoyed.

MAX: What the hell are you doing?

Mike looks surprised to see her. He holds the mop to his side.

MIKE: What are you doing? Why are you in here?

MAX: I'm looking for Dart.

MIKE: This is the boys' room.

MAX: Yeah, so?

MIKE: So you should go home.

Mike drops the mop and moves to leave.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – DAY**

Mike walks out of the boys' locker room and starts walking towards the doors. Max follows him.

MAX: Why do you hate me so much?

MIKE: I don't hate you. How can I hate you? I don't even know you.

MAX: No, but you don't want me in your party.

MIKE: Correct.

MAX: Why not?

Mike stops and turns around to face Max.

MIKE: Because you're annoying. Also, we don't need another party member. I'm our paladin, Will's our cleric, Dustin's our bard, Lucas is our ranger, and El is our mage.

MAX: El? Who's El?

MIKE: Someone. No one.

MAX: Someone or no one?

MIKE: She was in our party a long time ago. She moved away, okay?

Mike turns to walk away.

MAX: She was a mage?

Max drops her skateboard to the ground and starts to skate after Mike.

MAX (CONT'D): Well, what could she do? Like, magic tricks or something?

Max stops skating in front of Mike.

MAX (CONT'D): Well, I could be your zoomer.

MIKE: That's not even a real thing.

MAX: It could be.

Max hops on her skateboard and starts skating circles around Mike. Mike turns with her.

MAX (CONT'D): See? Zoomer.

MIKE: Mind-blowing.

MAX: Come on, you know you're impressed.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Eleven walks down the hallway.

MIKE (O.S.): I don't see any tricks. You're just going around in a circle.

MAX (O.S.): If it's so easy, you try it.

Eleven walks back, poking her head around the corner.

MIKE (O.S.): No.

MAX (O.S.): Why not?

MIKE (O.S.): I don't know how.

MAX (O.S.): So, then you admit it's kind of impressive.

Eleven slowly moves to be in the middle of the hallway T-junction.

MIKE (O.S.): I think if I spent, like, all day practicing, I could do that.

MAX (O.S.): I would give you a million bucks if you could.

MIKE (O.S.): Okay, you're making me dizzy.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Eleven approaches the gym doors and looks in through the doors' windows.

MIKE (O.S.): Please just stop.

MAX (O.S.): I'll stop when I join your party.

MIKE (O.S.): Come on, just stop.

MAX (O.S.): It's a simple question. Am I in or out?

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – DAY**

Max skates around Mike.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Eleven watches the pair through the doors' windows. She looks upset.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – DAY**

Mike smiles.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Eleven looks happy and saddened at seeing Mike.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – DAY**

Max smiles.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Eleven looks angry at Max. She tilts her head to the side.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – DAY**

Max's skateboard flies out from under her, causing her to fall backwards with a grunt. Mike kneels beside Max. she holds her stomach.

MIKE: Jesus! Are you all right?

MAX: Yeah, yeah. I think so.

Mike helps Max stand up.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Eleven looks upset by them touching.

MIKE (O.S.): What happened?

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYM – DAY**

MAX: I don't know. It was like a magnet or something pulling on my board. I know that sounds crazy.

Max moves to pick her skateboard up. Mike has a moment of realisation and turns to look at the gym doors. Eleven is gone. Mike starts to run towards the doors.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Mike opens the doors and runs out of the gym, looking around. The hallway is empty. He looks defeated.

**INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY**

Joyce passes, phone between her ear and her shoulder and holding Will's drawing in one hand and her traced drawing in the other. The line rings. She sighs.

JOYCE: Come on, come on, come on!

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE – RECEPTION – DAY**

The phone rings. Doris picks it up.

DORIS: Hawkins Middle. May I help you?

JOYCE (ON PHONE): Yes. Hi, Doris. It's Joyce. Uh, Joyce Byers.

Doris pulls the phone away from her head, looking at her co-worker.

DORIS: (mouthing) Joyce.

Doris' co-worker rolls her eyes. Doris puts the phone back against her ear.

JOYCE (ON PHONE): Uh, Will has AV Club today. Could you transfer me to Mr. Clarke?

DORIS: Mr. Clarke? Huh. You know what?

JOYCE (ON PHONE): What?

DORIS: I just saw him leave for the day. Maybe AV was cancelled.

JOYCE (ON PHONE): What?

DORIS: Would you like me to—

There's a dial tone.

**EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – DAY**

Joyce exits the house and runs to her car, getting in and quickly driving away.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – BOYS' BATHROOM – DAY**

Will opens the door and slowly walks in. Dart chitters. Will starts to walk towards the last stall, looking scared but determined. He slowly opens the door to the last stall. His eyes widen when he sees Dart in the corner.

WILL: (to Supercomm) Guys...I found him.

DUSTIN (ON SUPERCOMM) Where?

WILL: (to Supercomm) In the bathroom by Mr. Salerno's.

MIKE (ON SUPERCOMM): Copy that.

Dart backs further into the corner.

WILL: It's okay. I'm not gonna hurt you.

Dart screeches. Will jumps back, scared. He runs away, dropping his Supercomm outside the stall.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY**

Will runs out of the boys' bathroom, breathing heavily. He looks around. The lights start to flicker. In an instant, the world looks like the Upside Down. Will starts to shake a little. He looks down the hallway. The Mind Flayer's smoke rounds the corner into the hallway and starts moving towards Will. Will starts running in the other direction.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – HALLWAY – LOOKS LIKE THE UPSIDE DOWN**

Will runs down the hallway, looking behind him in fear of the Mind Flayer. Its smoke starts to gain on him.

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – OVAL – LOOKS LIKE THE UPSIDE DOWN**

Will runs out of the school as fast as he can, looking terrified.

**INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – BOYS' BATHROOM – DAY**

Dustin slams open the stall doors, looking for Dart. He slams open the last one and grins when he finds Dart in the corner. Dart chitters and starts to walk towards Dustin. Dustin bends down and holds out his palms.

DUSTIN: Hey, buddy. Come on. You know I won't hurt you.

Dart jumps into Dustin's palms.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): It's okay. It's just me. You're okay.

Dustin stands up.

MIKE (O.S.): Let's go. Down here.

Dustin turns around when he hears Mike's voice in the distance.

LUCAS (O.S.): We're coming!

Dart chitters. Dustin quickly takes off his headset and pulls his hat off. He places Dart on his head.

DUSTIN: Stay low. Keep quiet.

Dustin carefully puts his hat and headset back on. He exits the stall just as Mike, Max, and Lucas run in. They walk up to him.

MIKE: Where's Dart?

DUSTIN: I don't know. Not here.

MIKE: What?

Mike starts to open the stall doors and look inside.

MAX: He said by Salerno's, right?

DUSTIN: Yeah, maybe Will has him.

Lucas crosses his arms. Mike looks at Dustin.

MIKE: Where is Will?

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – OVAL – LOOKS LIKE THE UPSIDE DOWN**

Will runs away from the school.

**FLSHBCK – INT. BOB’S CAR**

*BOB: Only this time, I didn’t run.*

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – OVAL – LOOKS LIKE THE UPSIDE DOWN**

Will runs away from the school. He stops running, eyes wide.

**FLSHBCK – INT. BOB’S CAR**

*BOB (CONT’D): This time, I stood my ground.*

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – OVAL – LOOKS LIKE THE UPSIDE DOWN**

Will slowly turns around to face the Mind Flayer, breathing heavily. It rises above the school, screeching. It starts to reach an arm towards Will.

**FLSHBCK – INT. BOB’S CAR**

*BOB (CONT’D): I said, “Go away. Go away!”*

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – OVAL – LOOKS LIKE THE UPSIDE DOWN**

Will looks scared.

WILL: Go away!

The Mind Flayer is undeterred.

WILL (CONT’D): Go away! Go away! Go away! Go away!

The Mind Flayer reaches an arm towards Will.

WILL (CONT’D): Go away!

The Mind Flayer’s arm touches the ground and moves towards Will, enveloping him. Will looks terrified as it swirls around him. Smoking tendrils start to enter him, through his mouth, his nose, his ears, his eyes. He shakes.

**FLSHBCK – INT. BOB’S CAR**

*BOB: Easy-peasy, right?*

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – OVAL – LOOKS LIKE THE UPSIDE DOWN**

Will shakes wildly as the Mind Flayer possesses him.

**FLSHBCK – INT. BOB’S CAR**

*WILL: Easy-peasy.*

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – OVAL – LOOKS LIKE THE UPSIDE DOWN**

Will shakes wildly as the Mind Flayer possesses him.

**FLSHBCK – INT. BOB’S CAR**

*BOB: Just like that.*

*Bob clicks his fingers.*

**EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – OVAL – LOOKS LIKE THE UPSIDE DOWN**

Will shakes wildly as the Mind Flayer possesses him.

Cut to black.

**END EPISODE.**

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